

## What contaminants might be in water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over land surfaces or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that might be present in raw or source water before it is treated are broken down into several classifications:

- Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from storm water runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Herbicides and pesticides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural and residential, uses.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, storm water runoff, and septic system.

## Are there contaminants in your drinking water?

Even with the best treatment, it is not always possible to remove all contaminants. Earth and rock act as natural filters to remove many of these contaminants. The EPA sets limits on the amounts of a contaminant that can be in drinking water. The Torrington Water Company monitors your water on a daily basis. In addition, very extensive testing is performed in outside state approved laboratories. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In order to assure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We are pleased to report that in 2013 New Hartford's water supply exceeded all state and federal drinking water standards. A table on the back page of this report contains a summary with information about the contaminants that have been detected during the last year of monitoring. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year if prior testing show acceptable detection levels because concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to change frequently. Information reported below and in the summary chart are for 2013 monitoring unless otherwise noted because testing was not required in 2013.

## What is the latest information on Lead and Copper?

### Information on Lead:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. New Hartford WPCA is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing method and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the State Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### Information on Copper:

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people drinking water in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

### Cross Connection Control Program:

A cross connection can be formed when a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems), fire sprinkler systems, and irrigation systems. Cross connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure) thus allowing potentially harmful chemicals to enter into the drinking water distribution system. Cross connections can be prevented if protected by proper backflow prevention device. A backflow prevention device is required on every lawn irrigation system to prevent contaminated water from flowing backwards from the lawn area into your home or the distribution system.

## Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Steven Cerruto, Vice President of Operations, at (860) 489-4149.

# Annual Water Quality Report Reporting Year 2013

Presented by The Torrington Water  
Company—Agent for the  
New Hartford WPCA

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**2013 Consumer Confidence Report**

The New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority (NHWPCA), and the water system contract operator, The Torrington Water Company are pleased to present this Consumer Confidence Report. The contents of this report and the information about potential contaminants is included to keep you informed about water quality for the year 2013.

**Information on the Internet**

The U.S. EPA of Water ([www.epa.gov/watrhme](http://www.epa.gov/watrhme)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has a web site ([www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Connecticut.

**Where does your water come from?**

Your water source consists of two gravel-packed wells located in the northeast portion of the Town of New Hartford, referred to as the Pine Meadow and Black Bridge wells. The Pine Meadow well is 70 feet in depth and the Black Bridge well is 85 feet in depth. The system has no secondary water source. Daily water production averaged 98,000 gallons per day. The system serves a population of approximately 1,340 residents, and certified laboratory analysis was completed by Aqua Environmental Laboratories, Newtown, CT.

**Why must we treat your water and the water treatment process**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain very small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that the water poses a health risk. Water from each well is pumped into a dedicated pump house where it is treated before discharge into the distribution piping and water system storage tanks. Caustic Soda is added at both pump houses to raise the pH and reduce the water's potential corrosive properties. The Black Bridge pump house employs Greensand filters to remove iron and manganese. The process uses Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) as an oxidant injected before filtration.

**What are we doing to protect your drinking water?**

The New Hartford WPCA's commitment to providing the highest-quality water is evidenced by the efforts we take to protect your water source. Plans for new land use projects are reviewed for possible impact on water quality.

A source water assessment of our drinking water sources was performed by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The assessment found that your public drinking water source has a low susceptibility to potential sources of contamination. The reports are available on the Drinking Water Division website at [www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm).

Things that you can do to help make sure that your water supply is protected are:

- Use chemicals such as pesticides and cleaning products wisely.
- Dispose of waste chemicals and used motor oil properly.
- Report illegal dumping, chemical spills, or other polluting activities to the CT DEEP's 24-hour hotline (860) 424-3338, Torrington Water (860) 489-4149 or your local police.

**Water Conservation**

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

**Consumer Education & Participation.**

We encourage public interest regarding your communities water supply. Regular meetings of the NHWPCA occur on the first Thursday of each month at the New Hartford Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

**Is our water safe for everyone?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to drinking water contaminants than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**Footnotes for the summary of water quality for the calendar year 2013 below:**

- AL Action Level
- CU Color Limits
- MCL Maximum Contaminant Level
- MCLG Maximum Contaminant level goal
- N/A Not applicable (No MCL or MCLG level set at this time)

- NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- pci/l picocuries per liter
- ppm parts per million, also expresses at mg/l
- mg/l milligrams per liter
- ppb micrograms per liter, also expressed as
- ug/l micrograms per liter
- TT treatment technique

**Definitions for the Summary of Water Quality Table:**

**Action level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded mandates treatment.

**MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow a margin for safety.

**TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Summary of Water Quality for the Calendar year 2013**

\*Lead and Copper are reported as the 90th percentile

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detect	Range	Violation	Sources
<b>Bacteriological</b>						
Total Coliform	0	Routine test positive	0	0-0	No	Naturally present in environment
<b>Inorganic compounds</b>						
Chloride	N/A	250 ppm	23.0	N/A	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper * (2011)	1300ppb	AL = 1300ppb	130	10—310	No	Corrosion of household plumbing ; erosion of natural deposits
Lead * (2011)	15ppb	AL = 15ppb	1	<1—170	No	Corrosion of household plumbing ; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10ppm	10 ppm	1.4	<1.00—1.90	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks
Sodium	N/A	N/A	21.9	17.7 - 26.1	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	6.95	6.5—7.4	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial waste
<b>Microbials</b>						
Turbidity	N/A	TT = 5 ntu max	0.41 average	<0.2—1.30	No	Soil runoff
<b>Organic compounds</b>						
Free Chlorine	0	4 ppm	0.15	0.03-0.26	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	N/A	80 ppb	5.9	2.5—5.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total HAA5's	N/A	60 ppb	11.0	1.7—6.8	No	
<b>Radiological</b>						
Net Gross Alpha	0	15 pc/L	.77	—	No	Decay of natural and man made deposits
<b>Physical Characteristics</b>						
Color	N/A	15 cu	<1 average	0-5	No	
pH	N/A	6.4—10.0 units	7.59	7.00—8.40	No	